[24th August 1955

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"There was no cut. They were mistakenly paid on a time-scale. The matter is now set right."

Village munsifs as postmasters.

8-50 a.m. * 2233 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of village munsifs who are acting as extra-departmental postmasters?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" As village officers are part-time servants and are free to take up other remunerative work in addition to their regular duties with the permission of the superior officers, it is likely that the number of village officers who are acting as extra departmental postmasters is large. The Government therefore consider that the time and labour involved in the collection of the information required by the Member will not be commensurate with the benefit which will be derived thereby."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the Revenue Divisional Officer gives permission only to those whom he favours and rejects the petitions of many without assigning any reason. Inasmuch as the policy of the Government is to allow village officials to supplement their income, will the Government at least see that in cases of refusal, the reasons for the refusal are given? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, the hon. Member is perhaps referring to the Malabar district. If the hon. Member can bring specific instances to my notice, I will arrange to enquire into them."

Construction of a new bridge across the Cauvery.

* 2234 Q.—SRI N. RAJAGOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a new bridge over the river Cauvery between Srirangam and Tiruchirappalli on the trunk road: and

(b) if so, when the work will be taken up?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The detailed plans and estimate for the work have been forwarded to the Government of India and it will be taken up for execution after the Government of India's financial sanction to the estimate is received."

SRI N. RAJAGOPALAN :—"In view of the fact that it would be a hardship to the village-folk to carry their produce to the market which is situated in the heart of the town, will the Minister